

Infection Control

ADA Statement on Infection Control in Dentistry

Twenty-five years ago the ADA Foundation's Health Screening Program helped identify HBV as an occupational hazard in dentistry. The ADA responded by being the first to recommend that dentists follow standard infection control procedures. The ADA subsequently worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop CDC's own infection control recommendations for dentistry, which were issued in 1993. Since then, both the ADA and CDC have updated and supplemented their recommendations from time to time to reflect new scientific knowledge and growing understanding of the principles of infection control.

In December 2003, the CDC published a major consolidation and update of its [infection control recommendations for dentistry](#) (PDF).¹ Although the procedures recommended in the 2003 document are for the most part unchanged, the new document does incorporate relevant recommendations that were previously scattered throughout several other CDC publications and contains an extensive review of the science related to dental infection control.

The 2003 CDC Guidelines are a comprehensive and evidence-based source for infection control practices relevant to the dental office that have been developed for the protection of dental care workers and their patients. The ADA urges all practicing dentists, dental auxiliaries and dental laboratories to employ appropriate infection control procedures as described in the 2003 CDC Guidelines, and to keep up-to-date as scientific information leads to improvements in infection control, risk assessment and disease management in oral health care.

The ADA has long advocated the use of infection control procedures in dental practice and provided dentists with resources to help them understand and implement them. In addition to the online resources available at [ADA.org](#), the Association has a number of publications that provide detailed information about infection control and treatment of patients with infectious diseases. These include Dental Management of the HIV-Infected Patient and [ADA Catalog](#) products, including the Effective Infection Control training DVD (P692), the ADA Regulatory Compliance Manual and the OSHA Training for Dental Professionals DVD (P889). [CDC Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health Care Settings—2003](#) (PDF)

Adopted by the Council on Scientific Affairs March 2004.

Additional Resources

The CDC website has a [section on infection control](#) that is designed for dental professionals. Below are links to information from the CDC and other agencies and organizations. The American Dental Association did not produce the material you will find on these sites, and presence of a link here does not imply or constitute ADA endorsement. We also have provided links to additional resources developed by the ADA.

- [CDC Boil water advisories](#)
- [Cleaning and disinfecting environmental work surfaces](#) (PDF)
- [Dental unit waterlines, biofilm and water quality](#)
- Safe use of needles and other sharps
 - [CDC Safe Injection Practices in Dentistry](#)
 - [CDC Device Screening and Evaluation](#)

- [NIOSH Safer Medical Device Implementation in Health Care Facilities](#)
- [OSHA eTools: Needlestick/Sharps Injuries](#)
- [NIOSH Blunt-Tip Suture Needles](#)
- [Hand Hygiene](#) (PDF)
- [Handling Extracted Teeth](#) (PDF)
- [Immunization Programs](#) (PDF)
 - [Prevention and Control of Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\), 2010](#) MMWR August 6, 2010; Volume 59, No. RR 08
 - [CDC Vaccination Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel \(2009\)](#)
 - [Employee Vaccination Record](#) (PDF)
 - [Hepatitis B Vaccine Information](#) (PDF)
- [Latex hypersensitivity](#)
 - [American Latex Allergy Association: Latex-alternative products](#) (The information accessed through this link is not produced by the American Dental Association. Provision of access to this material does not imply endorsement by the ADA.)
- [Personal Protective Equipment](#) (PDF)
- Postexposure obligations, protocols, resources (for needlesticks and other sharps injuries)
 - [Post-Exposure Evaluation and Follow-Up Requirements Under OSHA's Standard for Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens: A Guide to Dental Employer Obligations](#)
 - [Updated U.S. Public Health Service Guidelines for the Management of Occupational Exposures to HIV and Recommendations for Postexposure Prophylaxis](#)
 - [Updated U.S. Public Health Service Guidelines for the Management of Occupational Exposures to HBV, HCV, and HIV and Recommendations for Postexposure Prophylaxis](#)
 - [National HIV/AIDS Clinicians' Consultation Center](#)
- Sterilization and disinfection of patient care items
 - [Monitoring Sterilizers](#)
 - [Sterilization Monitoring Services](#) (PDF)
 - [Sterilization and Disinfection of Dental Instruments](#) (PDF)
 - [OSHA: Best Practices for the Safe Use of Glutaraldehyde in Health Care](#) (PDF)
 - [Sterilization and Disinfection Table](#) (PDF)
 - [Tuberculosis](#)